

[1 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of cases have come to the light during the last one year in which passengers were caught travelling in the name of the Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to formulate any scheme to check such frauds; and

^d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some incident of irregular travel in the name of Members of Parliament have come to notice. Such cases are dealt with as per extant provisions of the Railways'Act, 1989 and railway dues realised from them. However, no separate statistics is maintained in this regard.

(c) and (d) Instructions exist to all reservation staff to be vigilant against fraudulent bookings on various passes and travel authorities including Identity Cards of Members of Parliament (MPs)/Ex. MPs and Rail Travel Coupons of Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs). Instructions also exist to ticket checking staff to keep a strict watch on the misuse of various travel authorities including those mentioed above.

#### **Defective polio vaccine**

\*153. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it a fact that there is a continuous increase in the cases of polio in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a number of complaints regarding defective polio vaccine have been received against the Bharat Immunological and Biological Corporation, Bulandshahar, Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There has been significant progress in controlling spread of Wild Polio Viruls circulation in the Country since

2003. As against 1600 cases detected in 2002, 225 polio cases were reported in 2003, 134 in 2004 and only 66 polio cases were reported during 2005. However, in 2006 there was an outbreak in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar resulting in spread of polio virus to other States. So far, 548 polio cases have been reported from different States of the country. The number of polio cases detected in last three years are annexed as Statement [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to Starred Question 143 (c) and (d)]

The quality of immunization rounds in the districts of western Uttar Pradesh during the later half of 2005 was not of the desired quality resulting in increased percentage of the missed children. Besides, these districts have thickly populated areas with poor sanitation and children of low nutrition status. It has also been found that in these areas certain non-polio enterovirus were prevalent in the gut of the children which interfere with the efficacy of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV)

(c) and (d) In the current year, two instances of the presence of a foreign body in the trivalent Oral Polio vaccine (OPV) vial manufactured by M/s Bharat Immunological and Biological Corporation Limited (BIBCOL), Bulandshahar, U.P. have been reported. In each case, the concerned State was immediately advised not to use the remaining vials of the same batch and samples from the batch were sent for testing. In one case, the sample was found to be of satisfactory quality and in other case the sample result is yet to be received. The vial under reference were supplied by the BIBCOL in the previous financial year i.e. 2005-06.

It may, however, be mentioned here that in the current financial year, this Ministry has not received any consignment of OPV from M/s BIBCOL. The Ministry has asked M/s BIBCOL to first get a Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) certificate from the DCG(I) specifying that manufacturing process fully complies with the revised schedule M of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules. The further supply of OPV vaccine to the Immunization Programme will be accepted only after the receipt of the GMP Certificate under Schedule M of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules.